

Mission: Privacy Sub-Group

To identify and clearly describe privacy concerns within the Smart Grid and opportunities for their mitigation. In addition, the group strives to clarify privacy expectations, practices, and rights with regard to the Smart Grid by:

- Identifying potential privacy problems and encouraging the use of relevant existing fair information practices
- Seeking the input of and educating Smart Grid entities, subject matter experts, and the public on options for protecting privacy of, and avoiding misuse of, personal information used within the Smart Grid
- Providing recommendations for coordinating activities of relevant local, state, and federal agencies regarding Smart Grid privacy related issues
- Making recommendations and providing information to organizations developing privacy policies and practices that promote and protect the interest of Smart Grid consumers and organizations

Current Status

- Performed a high-level privacy impact assessment (PIA), a portion of which comprised the privacy chapter within the first draft of NISTIR 7628
- Identified 15 privacy concerns to date within Smart Grid
- Identifying how existing widely recognized privacy principles and fair information practices may apply to the Smart Grid
- Discussing the potential benefits of privacy certification for organizations that are involved with the Smart Grid
- Identifying existing laws, regulations and standards that apply to Smart Grid data
- Identifying and reviewing state-level Smart Grid privacy activities, such as through NARUC
- Working on the privacy chapter for the second draft of NISTIR 7628

Identified Smart Grid Privacy Concerns

1. Identity Theft
2. Determine Personal Behavior Patterns
3. Determine Specific Appliances Used
4. Perform Real-Time Surveillance
5. Reveal Activities Through Residual Data
6. Target Home Invasions
7. Provide Accidental Invasions
8. Activity Censorship
9. Decisions and Actions Based Upon Inaccurate Data
10. Reveal Activities When Used With Data From Other Utilities
11. Profiling
12. Stalking and Domestic Abuse
13. Unwanted Publicity and Embarrassment
14. Tracking Behavior Of Renters/Leasers
15. Behavior Tracking
16. Public Aggregated Searches Revealing Individual Behaviors

Going Forward

- Solicit additional comments and knowledge from other actors involved with the Smart Grid, such as equipment and appliance manufacturers, and third-party application and service providers
- Propose characteristics and goals of privacy certification for organizations involved in the Smart Grid
- Complete a list of privacy standards based on fair information practices applicable to all domains within the Smart Grid
- Expand upon and clarify Smart Grid privacy concerns/issues to include within the next draft of the NISTIR
- Document and include within the next draft of the NISTIR the existing laws and regulations applicable to Smart Grid data

Group Demographics

The NIST Smart Grid Privacy Subgroup currently includes:

- Energy and Utilities Industry Experts
- State Public Utilities Commission Representatives
- Information Security Experts
- Privacy Experts
- Attorneys and Legal Experts
- University Professors and Students

Other technical experts are welcome to join the group.